THE OUTLAW KID
JAN.
10¢
DANGER QUICK SAND

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE OUTLAW KID

"HOSTAGE!"

THEY KEPT ADVANCING, WHITTLING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM, LIKE MEN WHO ENJOYED THE TORMENT OF OTHERS! SLOWLY THEY CLOSED IN, WITH THEIR LEERING, KILLER GRINS FROZEN ON THEIR LIPS, AND WITH DEATH IN THEIR HANDS AND MURDER IN THEIR HEARTS!

I'M GONNA COUNT TO THREE, KID, AN' YOU'LL HAVE YORE CHOICE!

...EITHER YOU AN' THET TIN-BADGE-OF-A-SHERIFF *JUMP* OR BE GUNNED DOWN!

DOUG WILDEY

THE SECONDS DRAGGED LIKE LEADEN WEIGHTS, AND THE KILLER'S VOICE WAS THE KNELL OF DOOM..
MAKE UP YORE MIND, BECAUSE I'M COUNTIN'! ONE... TWO...
WITH THE AWESOME FURY OF A GATHERING WAVE, TIME ITSELF SEEMED TO STAND STILL... AND IN THAT MOMENT HE REMEMBERED A DIFFERENT VOICE THAT SPOKE THE SAME NUMBERS BUT TO A DIFFERENT TUNE...
ONE AN' TWO AN' A ONE MAKES THREE... SWING YORE PARTNER LOOSE AN' FREE...
I SIMPLY HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK, LANCE! I'M PARCHED!
ME TOO, BELLE! I RECKON WE'D BETTER GET TO THAT PUNCH BOWL BEFORE IT'S DRAINED!
KEEPING YOU BUSY HERE, SHERIFF?
MORE'N ENOUGH, LANCE, BUT I DON'T MIND! MATTER OF FACT, I'D PICK STANDIN' GUARD OVER THE PUNCH BOWL, TO A LOT OF THE OTHER DUTIES A SHERIFF HAS TO PUT UP WITH!
BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
EVERYBODY FREEZE! MAKE A MOVE AN' IT'S YORE LAST!
AND WHEN ALL HEADS TURNED...
HOGAN.. HALE...
THAT'S RIGHT, SHERIFF! AN' WE'VE COME TO GIT YUH! START COMIN', THIS WAY, AN' GIT YORE HANDS HIGH!
C'MON, SHERIFF! WE CAN... OHMMHH!
BLAM!
ANYONE ELSE TRY SOMETHIN' AN' THEY'LL GIT THE SAME! WE'RE TAKIN' YORE SHERIFF WITH US! I'VE WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PIECE OF PAPER! IF YOU WANT 'IM BACK ALIVE, YOU'LL DO EXACTLY LIKE IT SAYS!
2

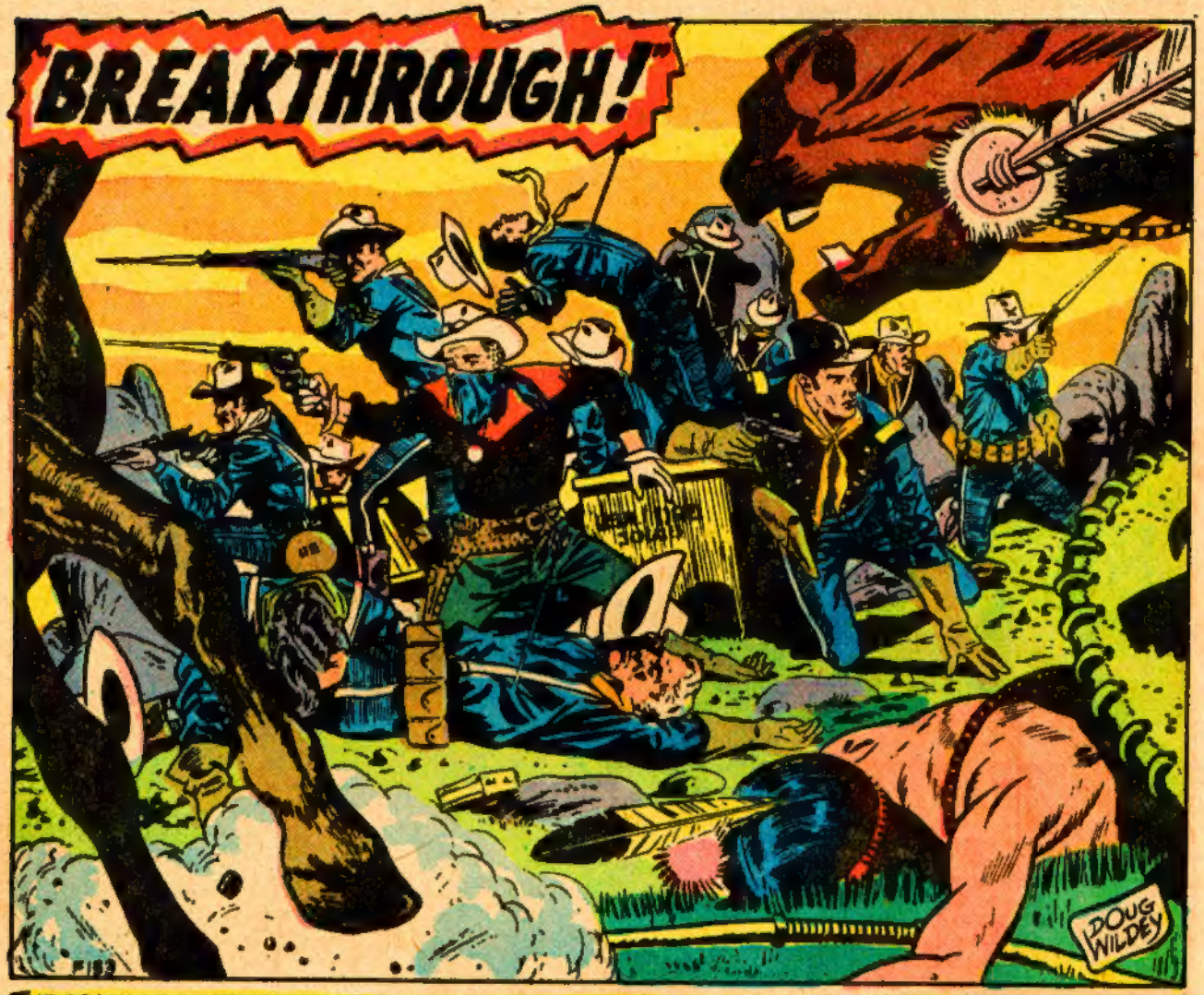
MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE KIDNAPERS AND THEIR VICTIM GALLOPED OFF...
IT SAYS, "RELEASE JEFF CLOONEY FROM JAIL! SEE THAT HE GITS HIS GUNS AN' A FAST HOSS! FAIL TO DO THIS WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AN' WE'LL BE SHIPPIN' BACK ONE DEAD SHERIFF!"
JEFF CLOONEY! WHY, THAT MURDERIN' KILLER IS SCHEDULED TO BE HUNG!
THEY GOT OUR SHERIFF AN' THEY'RE SURE TO KILL HIM IF WE DON'T COMPLY!
PETE'S RIGHT, BOYS! WE'VE GOT TO DO LIKE THEY SAY! THAR AIN'T NO OTHER WAY!
HOTEL
DANC TONIG
IT'S A PERFECT SHAME, SETTING FREE A KILLER LIKE CLOONEY! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY OF TELLING THE OUTLAW KID! HE'S THE ONE PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BELLE, AND MAYBE HE'LL FIND OUT YET!
AN HOUR LATER, OUTSIDE THE TOWN JAIL...
ALL RIGHT, CLOONEY, WE'RE SETTIN' YOU FREE LIKE YORE KILLER PALS ASKED! IF OUR SHERIFF AIN'T RELEASED UNHARMED, BY SUNUP WE'LL BE COMIN' AFTER YUH!
THAT DON'T SCARE ME NONE! JUST SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE TRAILS ME OUT! IF YUH DO, THE DEAL'S OFF!
THAR HE GOES... FREE LIKE THE WIND!
WHAT ELSE COULD WE DO, NATE? THEY GOT US ACROSS A BARREL!
BUT ALONG THE TRAIL, FROM A POINT OF VANTAGE, KEEN EYES STARED DOWN INTO THE VALLEY BELOW...
THAT'S CLOONEY ALL RIGHT, MAKING A BEELINE FOR HIS PALS! LIKE BELLE SAID, THIS IS A JOB FOR THE OUTLAW KID, ONLY I'LL HAVE TO GO EASY! ONE SLIP AND IT COULD MEAN THE SHERIFF'S LIFE!
WE'LL KEEP A FAIR DISTANCE BEHIND, THUNDER! AS LONG AS WE SEE HIS DUST, WE'RE ALL RIGHT!
3

THEN, AFTER SOME TWENTY MINUTES, THE FAMED OUTLAW KID SLIPPED FROM HIS SADDLE...
HE'S SLOWING DOWN, BOY! RECKON WE'D BETTER CALL A HALT, TOO!
I'LL HAVE TO PLAY IT SAFE, THUNDER, AND FOLLOW IN ON FOOT! YOU WAIT HERE, BUT KEEP THOSE EARS SHARP!
AND A SHORT DISTANCE UP THE TRAIL...
WELL, BOYS, MEBBE NOW YOU'LL ADMIT MY PLAN HAD SOMETHIN' TO IT AFTER ALL!
IT SURE DID, CLOONEY! THEY ACTED LIKE A BUNCH OF SCARED RABBITS!
SPEAKIN' OF RABBITS, WHAT ABOUT THE SHERIFF?
HE AIN'T GONNA BE NO PROBLEM! GIT THEM ROPES OFF'N HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, CLOONEY? EVERYTHING WAS DONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU ASKED!
AN' THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA CONTINUE! WE'RE HEADIN' FOR THE BORDER, SHERIFF...ONLY I'M GOIN' TO PUT A BULLET THROUGH YORE LIVER 'FORE I DO!
SUDDENLY...
WE'VE BEEN TRAILED! MAKE OUT LIKE YOU'RE CHECKIN' THE HOSSES, THEN SNEAK BACK UP THAR!
4

AND FROM A POINT ABOVE...
THAT LOOSE DIRT COULD'VE TIPPED MY HAND! I'LL HAVE TO BREAK UP THIS PARTY FAST!
POW!
ALL I HAVE TO... OHHHH!
DARKNESS AND STINGING PAIN FOLLOWED IN SWIFT SUCCESSION, AND THEN THE VOICE BELLOWED CLOSE TO HIS EAR...
ON YORE FEET, KID! GIT UP AND MAKE IT FAST!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! JEFF CLOONEY NEVER GUNS A MAN OFFA HIS FEET! MATTER OF FACT, KID, I'M GONNA GIVE YOU AN' THE SHERIFF A WAY OUT!
THAR'S ONLY ONE CATCH! IT'S A THOUSAND FEET DOWN!
SO THEY KEPT CLOSING IN, WITH THEIR LEERING GRINS FROZEN ON THEIR LIPS, AND WITH DEATH IN THEIR HANDS AND MURDER IN THEIR HEARTS...
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE...
SWIFTLY, THE KID EMITS A WHISTLE...
HUH?
5

LIKE THE NAME HE BORE, SO DID THE EARTH TREMBLE TO HIS THUNDEROUS HOOFS! A THING OF DAZZLING SPEED AND FLASHING FURY... THE MAGNIFICENT STALLION SPRANG FORWARD AT HIS MASTER'S CALL...
IT'S A MAN-KILLER!
RUN!
THUD!
WHAM!
NO-GOOD CRITTER! I'LL SHOW YUH!
BANG!
THEN TWO SHOTS ROARED OUT IN THE NIGHT, BUT ONLY ONE FOUND ITS MARK...
BLAM!
BLAM!
I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL, KID! I GUESS I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH!
THUNDER'S THE ONE TO THANK, SHERIFF, AND I RECKON I CAN ADD MINE TO YOURS!
SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER...
...AND THEN THE SHERIFF SAID THAT THE OUTLAW KID FIRED TWO SHOTS AND...LANCE TEMPLE! YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I SAID!
I HAVE TOO, BELLE! AFTER YOU, I'D SAY I WAS THE OUTLAW KID'S GREATEST BOOSTER!

THE OUTLAW KID



THE CRASH OF GUNFIRE WAS CONTINUOUS AND UNBROKEN! ALL DAY THE BATTLE HAD RAGED AND THROUGH MOST OF THE NIGHT! NOW THE AIR ROILED TO THE PIERCING CRIES OF THE ATTACKING INDIANS, AND EVEN THE STEEL NERVES OF THE FAMED *OUTLAW KID* TREMBLED BEFORE THE FURY OF THE ATTACKING HORDE!

IT BEGAN AROUND NOON, AS A RIDER RODE TOWARD THE TEMPLE RANCH.

THE NEWS WAS BIG... AND BAD!

IT'S THE SIOUX AGAIN, TEMPLE! THEY'VE RAIDED OUTA THE NORTH THIS TIME, AN' GOT A WHOLE CAVALRY UNIT CORNERED IN HORSESHOE CANYON!
1

IF THEY OVERRUN THEM CAVALRY BOYS, THE WHOLE TERRITORY'LL BE AT THEIR MERCY!
HE'S RIGHT, DAD! WE'LL BE DIRECTLY IN THEIR PATH!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE HINTIN' AT, SON, BUT I'M GOIN' TO HOLD YOU TO THE PLEDGE YOU MADE ME! YOU WILL TAKE PART IN NO VIOLENCE! DO I HAVE YOUR WORD ON THAT?
YES, DAD! YOU HAVE IT!
I FIGGERED I WAS WASTIN' MY TIME! WE RANCHERS ARE PLANNIN' ON FORMIN' A SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE, BUT I RECKON THE TEMPLES WOULD HAVE OTHERS RISK THEIR NECKS FOR 'EM!
YOU KNOW WHY I'M ASKIN' THIS OF YOU! I'M BLIND BECAUSE I DIDN'T SHUN VIOLENCE! I DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN TO YOU!
I UNDERSTAND, DAD!
BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO HELP! WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I RODE OUT AND HELPED BUILD THE TEMPORARY BARRICADES?
SURE, SON, JUST AS LONG AS YOU CLEAR OUT THE MINUTE ANY VIOLENCE BEGINS!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN A SECRET CANYON, LANCE TEMPLE MADE HIS FAMOUS CHANGE..
AS LANCE TEMPLE, I HAVE TO KEEP MY WORD AND SHUN VIOLENCE, BUT AS THE OUTLAW KID, I'M NOT BOUND BY THE PROMISE I MADE MY FATHER! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN FIGHT FOR WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT!
SOON THE HILLS ECHOED TO THE THUNDEROUS POUND OF THE GREAT STALLION'S HOOFS
GO TO IT, BOY! THERE'S A LOT TO BE DONE, AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
2

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, HE WAS JOINED BY HIS TWO FRIENDS ...THE DASHING EMILIO AND THE STALWART RED HAWK...
HOW DO THINGS GO, MY FRIENDS?
THE CAVALRY, THEY HAVE MUCH BAD TIME! THE RENEGADE POHAWANA AND HIS OUTLAW BAND HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN NUMBERS!
TO REACH THE SOLDIERS WILL TAKE MUCH FIGHTING! MY BROTHER POHAWANA HAS MANY WARRIORS BETWEEN THEM AND US!
WE'LL HAVE TO GET TO THEM, RED HAWK, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!
MEANWHILE, THE HARASSED CAVALRY CONTINUED VALIANTLY TO STAVE OFF THE ASSAULTS UPON THEIR LINES...
USE YOUR FIRE SPARINGLY, BOYS! DON'T POUR IT ON TILL I GIVE THE WORD!
BANG! BANG!
NOW!
BLAM!
BAM!
BANG!
I GUESS THAT'LL HOLD THEM FOR A WHILE, BAKER!
I DON'T KNOW, SIR! THEY SEEM TO BE REGROUPING!
BUT ON THEY CAME, WITH SLASHING HOOFS AND BLAZING GUNS, AND THE INDIAN HORDE SCATTERED LIKE LEAVES BEFORE A WIND...
SUDDENLY...
LOOK, COLONEL! THREE RIDERS HEADING THIS WAY!
THEY'LL NEVER MAKE IT THRU THE INDIAN LINES!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
5

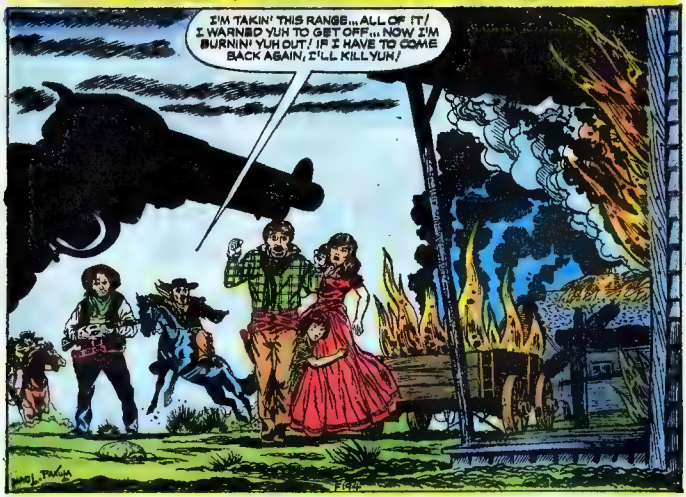
THEY'VE MADE IT, BAKER! HERE THEY COME!
I CAN UNDERSTAND IT NOW, SIR! THAT'S THE OUTLAW KID! I'VE SEEN HIM IN ACTION BEFORE, AND THEY DON'T COME ANY BETTER!
SECONDS LATER...
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE! MY AIDE TELLS ME YOU'RE THE BEST INDIAN FIGHTER IN THE TERRITORY, AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, I CERTAINLY AGREE!
YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING UP A GOOD SHOW YOURSELF, SIR!
WE CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY FOR LONG! THEY OUT-NUMBER US AND THEY'VE GOT US BOXED IN! I COUNT OUR CHANCES AS MIGHTY SLIM!
STILL AND ALL, COLONEL, MY FRIENDS AND I WANT TO HELP!
HERE THEY COME! ANOTHER ATTACK!
ALL RIGHT, SON! IF YOU WANT TO HELP, NOW'S THE TIME!
ONCE AGAIN THE CAVALRY GUNS BLAZED FORTH, ONLY THIS TIME THE FAMED GUNS OF THE OUTLAW KID ADDED THEIR OWN DISTINCTIVE ROAR TO THE CRASHING VOLLEY...
BLAM!
BLAM!
POW!
BANG!
BRAAM!
BAM!
KEEP IT UP, MEN! THEY'RE PULLING BACK!
WELL, THEY'VE PULLED BACK... THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS! THE QUESTION IS, HOW LONG BEFORE THEY ATTACK AGAIN?
THAT'S HARD TO SAY, SIR!
4

WE'VE CLAWED THEM UP PRETTY GOOD, AND I RECKON THEY'LL BE SPENDING THE NEXT FEW HOURS LICK NG THEIR WOUNDS! CHANCES ARE THAT W.TH DUSK COMING, THEY'LL BE MAKING AN ALL-OUT ATTACK AT DAWN!
WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF SLIPPING PAST THEM DURING THE NIGHT?
NOT GOOD, SIR! WE COULDN'T GET THRU THEIR LINES WITH-OUT THEM KNOWING IT! IF WE CAN BEAT OFF THEIR DAWN ATTACK, THEY MIGHT GET D.SGUSTED ENOUGH TO CALL IT QUITS!
I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN DO THAT, KID! WE'RE PRACTICALLY OUT OF AMMUNITION! THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HELP US NOW IS A MIRACLE!
SUPPOSE WE WAIT FOR MORNING AND SEE!
THE LONG NIGHT FOLLOWED, AND WHILE THE BATTLE-WEARIED SOLDIERS SLEPT, THE KEEN-EYED SENTRIES KEPT THEIR LONELY WATCH...
DAWN CAME, AND AS AN AWAKING SOLDIER RUBBED THE SLEEP FROM RED-RIMMED EYES...
OF ALL THE... HEY, FELLAHS, TAKE A LOOK!
BUFFALO!
THEY MUST'VE WANDERED INTO THE CANYON DURING THE NIGHT!
THERE IT IS, COLONEL... THE "MIRACLE" YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT!
BUT IT'S JUST A HERD OF BUFFALO! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

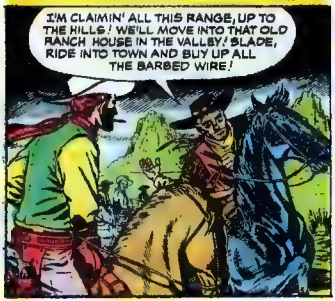
YOU WILL IN A MINUTE, COLONEL! JUST GET YOUR MEN MOUNTED AND HAVE THEM READY TO MOVE!
THEN, AT THE KID'S SIGNAL, THE COLORFUL TRIO THUNDERED DOWN ON THE GRAZING HERD...
BANG! BANG! BANG!
SENDING THEM IN WILD STAMPEDE ACROSS THE PLAIN, AND INTO THE RENEGADES' CAMP...
...WHERE THE CRIES OF THE R VICTIMS WERE DROWNED OUT BENEATH THE POUNDING OF A THOUSAND FEAR-MADDENED HOOFS...
WHOEVER GETS AWAY, WON'T BE BACK FOR A LONG TIME, COLONEL! YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT!
IT WAS A MIRACLE, K.D. BUT IT TOOK YOU TO SEE IT!
THAT NIGHT, AT THE TEMPLE RANCH...
YOU AIN'T HEARD THE HALF OF IT, SON! THERE WAS THIS HERD O' BUFFALO, AN' THEN...
I KNOW, DAD... AND THEN THE OUTLAW KID TURNED THEM AGAINST THE INDIANS AND SAVED THE TERRITORY!
THAT'S RIGHT, SON! BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW?
THE SAME WAY AS YOU, DAD! SOMEONE IN TOWN TOLD ME ABOUT IT... HOW ELSE?
THE END
6

THE FENCE!

THIS IS THE STORY OF A MAN, WADE COLIN... A RUTHLESS MAN WHO WANTED A PRAIRIE KINGDOM WITH A FENCE AROUND IT, AND WAS DETERMINED TO HOLD IT BY GUN AND FIST!



HE RODE INTO JIMSON COUNTY LIKE A BARON, WITH A CREW OF RAWHIDE GUNMEN BEHIND HIM...


I'M CLAIMIN' ALL THIS RANGE, UP TO THE HILLS! WE'LL MOVE INTO THAT OLD RANCH HOUSE IN THE VALLEY! BLADE, RIDE INTO TOWN AND BUY UP ALL THE BARBED WIRE!

HE LABORED WITH HIS MEN; SETTING FENCE POSTS, NAILING UP THE MILES AND MILES OF BARBED WIRE...

THE CATTLE SHOULD BE COMIN' IN./ WHOA,YUH BLACK DEVIL!
SOMEDAY THAT STUD'S GONNA KILL YUH, BOSS!
NOTHING STANDS AGAINST MY WILL, HORSE OR MAN./ HE'LL BEHAVE AN' OBEY ME, OR I'LL GET RID OF HIM!
THAT WAS WADE COLIN'S WAY... CONFORM TO HIS WILL, OR BE BROKEN AND KILLED!
HERE COMES THE HERD!
THE STEERS SPREAD OUT ON THE RICH GRASS...CATTLE RUSTLED IN MONTANA TERRITORY BY WADE AND HIS MEN, FATTENED ON STOLEN GRASS AND BROUGHT HERE TO BEGIN HIS PRAIRIE EMPIRE...
THE FENCE IS FINALLY FINISHED, BOSS!
GATHER THE MEN! WE'RE GOIN' VISITING!
ONE BY ONE, WADE COLIN AND HIS CREW VISITED THE SMALL RANCHERS AND NESTERS WHO HAD MADE THEIR HOMES IN THE TERRITORY HE CLAIMED AS HIS...
I'VE WORKED LIKE A DOG ON THIS LAND! YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT...
LOAD YOUR BELONGIN'S AND GET OUT BY MORNIN' OR YOU'RE DUE FOR TROUBLE!
SOME OF THE RANCHERS FOUGHT BACK...
ALL RIGHT! HOLD YOUR FIRE! WE'RE COMIN' OUT!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! IF YOU THINK YUH C'N PUT A FENCE AROUND LAND THAT AIN'T YOURS...
I THINK JUST THAT, YATES! GET OUT!

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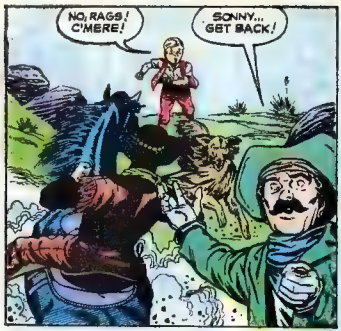
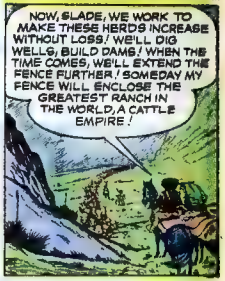
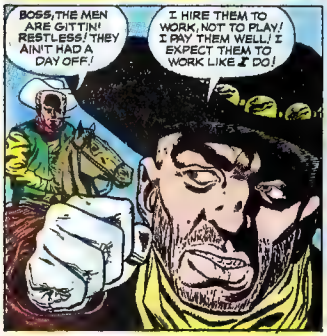


WADE COLIN ADDED THE SMALL HERDS OF THE RANCHERS HE DISPOSSESSED TO HIS OWN HERDS...

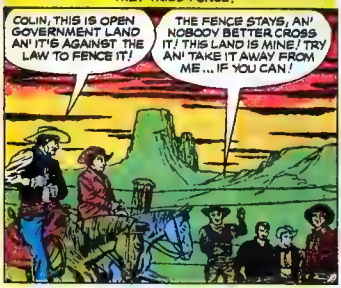

NOW, SLADE, WE WORK TO MAKE THESE HERDS INCREASE WITHOUT LOSS! WE'LL DIG WELLS, BUILD DAMS! WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE'LL EXTEND THE FENCE FURTHER! SOMEDAY MY FENCE WILL ENCLOSE THE GREATEST RANCH IN THE WORLD, A CATTLE EMPIRE!

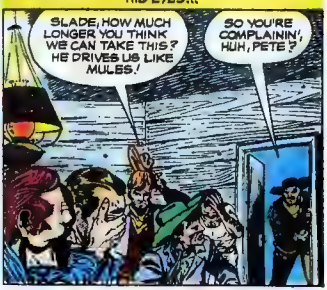

BOSS, THE MEN ARE GITTIN' RESTLESS! THEY AIN'T HAD A DAY OFF!
I HIRE THEM TO WORK, NOT TO PLAY! I PAY THEM WELL! I EXPECT THEM TO WORK LIKE I DO!

MEANWHILE, IN JIMSON CITY, THE NESTERS AND RANCHERS SPOKE WITH SHERIFF SIMS...

HE CHASED YOU FOLKS 'FORE YOU COULD PROVE YOUR GOVERNMENT CLAIM ON THAT LAND! Y'MUST LIVE ON THE LAND A YEAR, YUH KNOW!
BUT IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO PUT US OFF BY FORCE THAT WAY!

IN A BODY, DEPUTIZED BY THE SHERIFF, THEY RODE TOWARD THE FENCE...
IF I CALLED THE GOVERNMENT FOR HELP, IT'D TAKE A LONG TIME TO SEND SOLDIERS! BY THAT TIME, COLIN WILL HAVE PROVED POSSESSION OF THE LAND AN' COULD LEGALLY HOLD IT!
ONLY WAY IS TO PUT HIM OFF BY FORCE!


BUT WHEN THEY FACED HIM AND HIS COLD-EYED CREW, THEY KNEW THAT TOO MANY OF THEM WOULD DIE IF THEY TRIED FORCE!
COLIN, THIS IS OPEN GOVERNMENT LAND AN' IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO FENCE IT!
THE FENCE STAYS, AN' NOBODY BETTER CROSS IT! THIS LAND IS MINE! TRY AN' TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME... IF YOU CAN!


WADE COLIN WORKED HIS MEN DAY AND NIGHT, AND AS TIME PASSED, A STRANGE LIGHT CAME INTO HIS EYES...
SLADE, HOW MUCH LONGER YOU THINK WE CAN TAKE THIS? HE DRIVES US LIKE MULES!
SO YOU'RE COMPLAININ', HUH, PETE?

THE OTHERS WATCHED, AFRAID FOR THE ONE TIME IN THEIR LIVES; AFRAID OF THE UNHOLY MADNESS OF THIS BIG MAN...
HE'S LIKE A MAD WOLF! HE AIN'T HUMAN!

WE WORK HERE! WORK! BUILD! CATTLE AND LAND, MORE AND MORE; BIGGER AND BIGGER! POWER FOR WADE COLIN! NOW GET TO BED, SO YOU CAN BEGIN AT DAWN!

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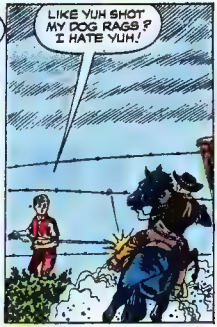
THAT SETTLES IT! DID YOU SEE HIS EYES? HE'S CRAZY! WE AIN'T MEN TO HIM... WE'RE JUST ANIMALS HE BOUGHT TO BUILD HIS EMPIRE!
RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT! WE'LL DRIFT OUT TONIGHT!

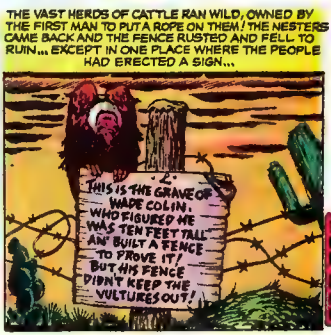
THE MEN LEFT, AND WADE COLIN WAS ALONE WITH HIS HUGE, GROWING HERDS OF CATTLE, HIS LAND AND HIS FENCE, WHICH HE PATROLLED INCESSANTLY, THE CRAZY LIGHT GROWING EVER BRIGHTER IN HIS EYES...

YOU! I'VE SEEN YUH PROWLIN' AROUND HERE BEFORE! GET OUT! NOBODY GETS NEAR MY FENCE! I'LL BLAST YUH!


LIKE YUH SHOT MY DOG RAGS? I HATE YUH!

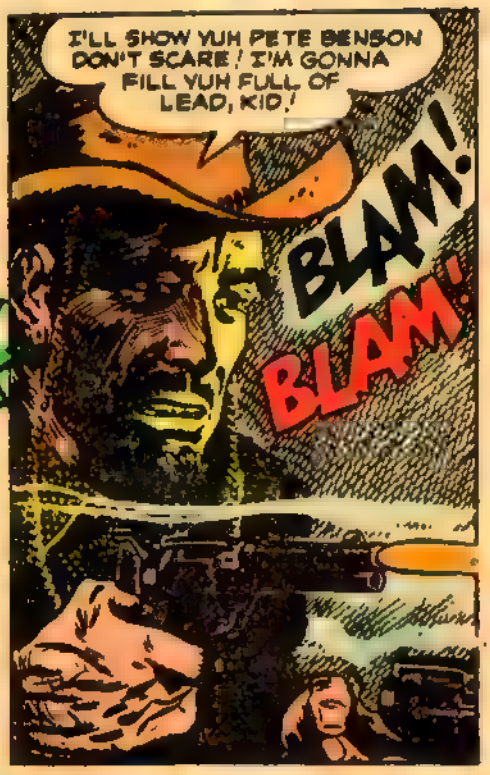
THE PEBBLE STRUCK THE BIG BLACK STUD, AND HE BUCKED AND SMASHED IN CRAZY FRENZY AGAINST THE BARBED WIRE...
ARRGGHHHH!

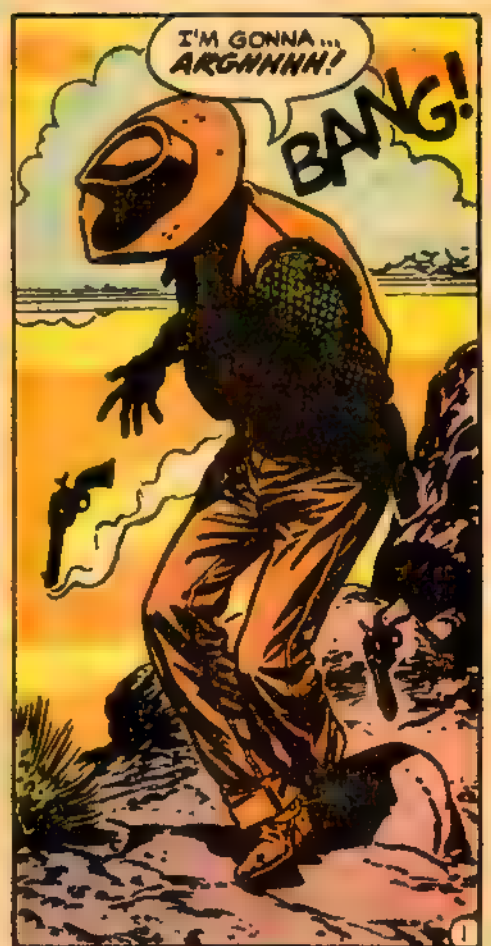
AND AT LAST THE BIG BLACK HAD THE MAN HE HATED WHERE HE WANTED HIM... HELPLESS AND HELD BY THE BARBED WIRE!
5


THE VAST HERDS OF CATTLE RAN WILD, OWNED BY THE FIRST MAN TO PUT A ROPE ON THEM! THE NESTERS CAME BACK AND THE FENCE RUSTED AND FELL TO RUIN... EXCEPT IN ONE PLACE WHERE THE PEOPLE HAD ERECTED A SIGN...
THIS IS THE GRAVE OF WADE COLIN WHO FIGURED HE WAS TEN FEET TALL AN' BUILT A FENCE TO PROVE IT! BUT HIS FENCE DIDN'T KEEP THE VULTURES OUT!

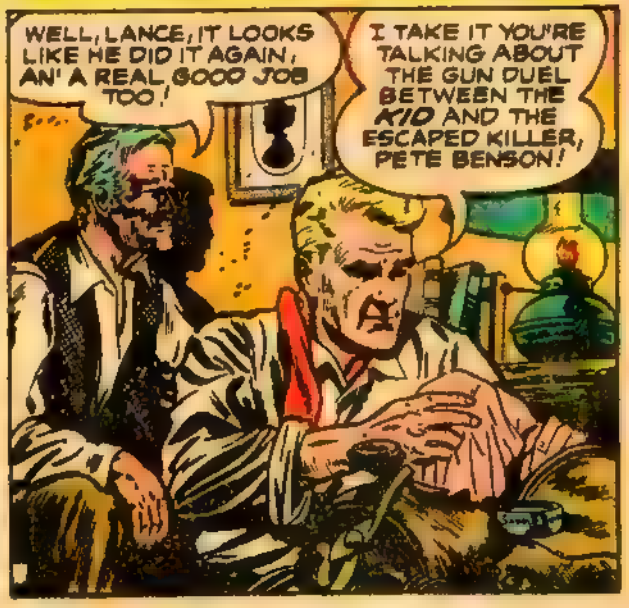
THE OUTLAW KID

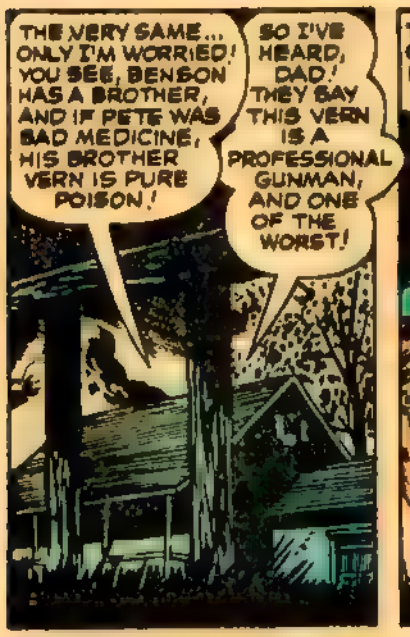
IT HAD BEEN A LONG, HARD CHASE, BUT FINALLY, THE DESPERADO, LIKE A CORNERED BEAST, TURNED UPON HIS PURSUER! THE BLUE STEEL OF THEIR GUNS CAUGHT THE SUNLIGHT AND THEN THE AIR WAS RIPPED BY THE THUNDEROUS BLASTS...





LATER THAT EVENING AT THE TEMPLE RANCH...


WELL, LANCE, IT LOOKS LIKE HE DID IT AGAIN, AN' A REAL GOOD JOB TOO!
I TAKE IT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GUN DUEL BETWEEN THE KID AND THE ESCAPED KILLER, PETE BENSON!

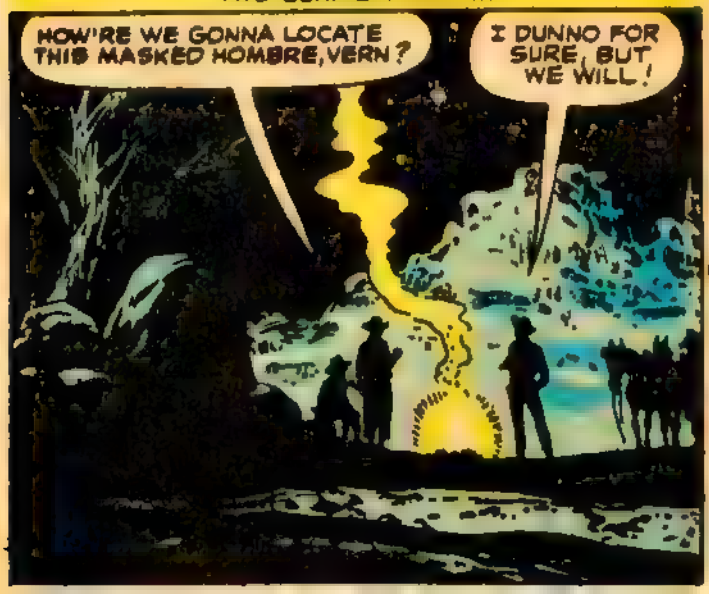

THE VERY SAME... ONLY I'M WORRIED! YOU SEE, BENSON HAS A BROTHER, AND IF PETE WAS BAD MEDICINE, HIS BROTHER VERN IS PURE POISON!
SO I'VE HEARD, DAD! THEY SAY THIS VERN IS A PROFESSIONAL GUNMAN, AND ONE OF THE WORST!

THAT HE IS, BUT I RECKON IT AIN'T OUR WORRY! IT'S SOMETHIN' THE KID'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH, AN' I THINK HE'S PERFECTLY CAPABLE!
I SURE HOPE SO, DAD!

NOT LONG AFTERWARD, AS LANCE PREPARED FOR BED...

IF DAD EVER KNEW THAT THE OUTLAW KID AND I WERE THE SAME PERSON, HE MIGHT NOT BE SO SURE ABOUT THINGS! THE WAY I SEE IT, THIS VERN CAN BE MIGHTY TROUBLESOME!

AND AT THAT SAME MOMENT, ALONG A TRAIL NOT TOO DISTANT, VERN BENSON TALKED MATTERS OVER WITH TWO GUNMEN PALS...



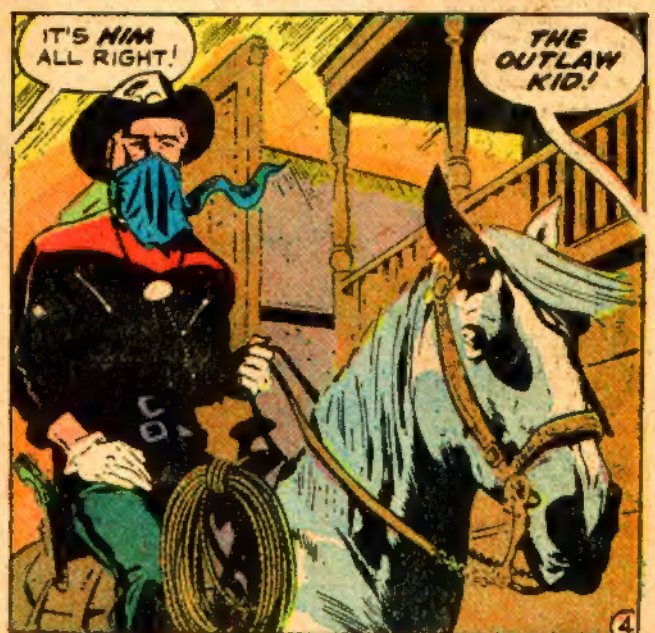
HE GOT PETE, AN' THAT MEANS THAT I'M GONNA GIT TO HIM AN' PAY HIM OFF! HE OPERATES OUTA CALIBER CITY, AN' THAT'S AS GOOD A STARTIN' PLACE AS ANY!

EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN CALIBER CITY'S ONLY SALOON, THE FEW CUSTOMERS TURNED AT THE CREAK OF THE SWINGING DOORS, AND THEN THEIR EYES BULGED WITH SHOCK...
V-VERN BENSON!
NO ONE MOVE! I'VE COME FOR INFORMATION!
YOU FIRST, POP! I'M LOOKIN' FOR THE MASKED MAN WHO KILLED PETE! WHO IS HE, AN' WHERE DO I FIND HIM?
IF YUH MEAN THE OUTLAW KID, NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS!
I SAID I CAME FOR INFORMATION, AN' I MEANT IT!
SLAP!
OUTSIDE...
NO... STOP... PLEASE!
IT'S VERN BENSON AN' HIS KILLERS! I SEEN 'EM GO IN!
THEN THE SALOON DOORS SWUNG OPEN...
LISTEN CLOSE! IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS OLD MAN DEAD, YUH BETTER GIT THET OUTLAW KID HERE, PRONTO! I WANT HIM TUH COME IN HERE ALONE! YUH GOT ONE HOUR!
AND WHEN THE DOORS SWUNG SHUT...
HE'LL KILL CHARLIE ALL RIGHT, JUST LIKE HE SAID!
BUT WHAT DO WE DO? THE KID WOULD COME BUT HOW DO WE GET WORD TO SOMEONE WE DON'T KNOW?
MAYBE I CAN GET WORD TO HIM! AT LEAST I CAN TRY!
YOU?
2

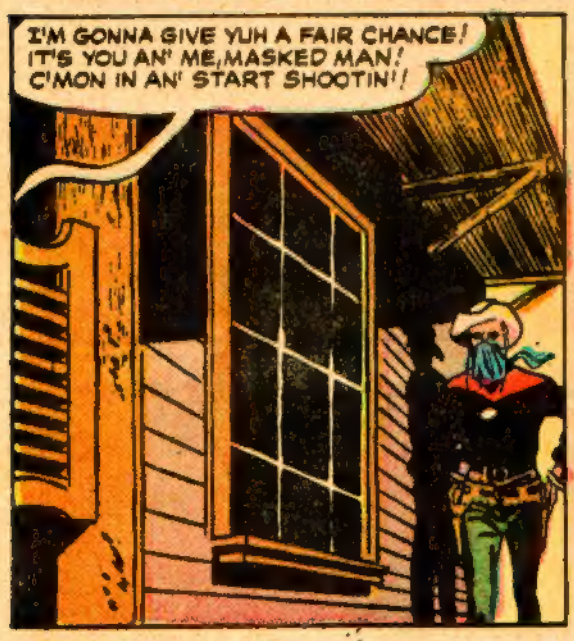
I'VE SEEN HIM MANY TIMES RIDING PAST OUR NORTH RANGE! I THINK HIS STALLION LIKES OUR PASTURE AND THE WILD OATS!
YOU GO AHEAD AND LOOK, LANCE... AN' I PRAY TUH HEAVEN YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TUH FIND 'IM!

DAD WAS RIGHT! VERN BENSON IS POISON, AND THE WORST KIND! I'LL HAVE TO MAKE MY CHANGE OVER TO THE OUTLAW KID AN' GET BACK THERE PRONTO!

AND AS THE HOUR DREW TO A CLOSE...

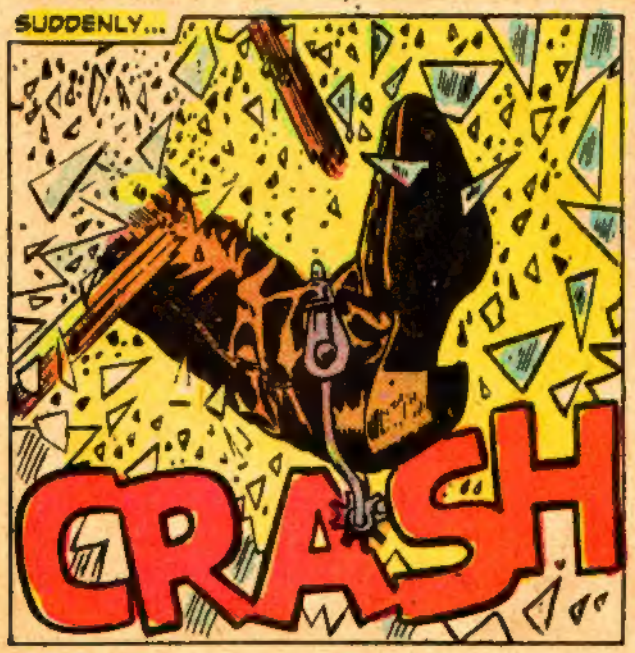


YOU TWO GUYS GET ON EACH SIDE OF THE DOOR! I'LL COVER THE MIDDLE FROM THE BAR! AS SOON AS HE STEPS IN, START THROWIN' LEAD, AN' KEEP THROWIN' IT!
RIGHT!



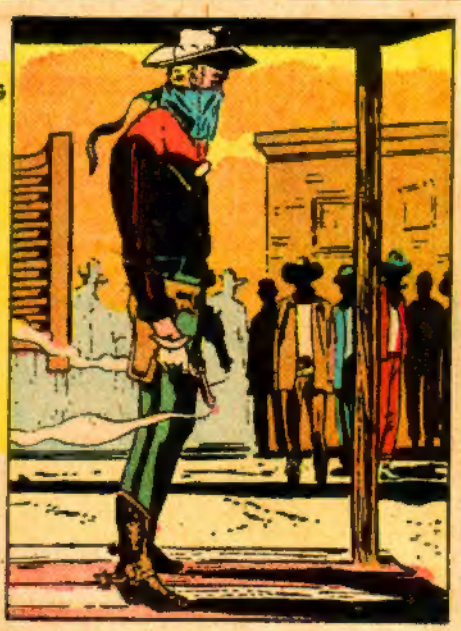
THE SILENCE THICKENED! NOTHING STIRRED, AND THE DRAMA INCHED FORWARD LIKE A PANTOMIME OF DEATH...

INSIDE, THE THREE KILLERS WAITED FOR THE FIRST MOVE THAT WOULD TRIGGER OFF THE CRASHING ROAR OF THEIR HAMMERING GUNS...



THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY AS IT BEGAN...

SLOWLY, THE CREAKING DOORS SWUNG OPEN, FOLLOWED BY A TAUT SILENCE! THERE WAS NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING! IT WAS ALL EXPRESSED THROUGH THE TIRED DROOP OF HIS BODY, AND THE SMOKING GUNS CLENCHED IN HIS FISTS...



AND WHEN EVENING CAME TO THE TEMPLE RANCH...